

Message Text

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73

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TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 057415

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PBOR, ETRN, MARR, WB, GW, GE, US, UK, FR, UR

SUBJECT: NUMBER OF TRAINS BETWEEN FRG AND BERLIN

REFERENCE: A) BERLIN 372; B) BONN L7272; C) BERLIN 2051

1. ALTHOUGH THE DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES THE POSSIBLE FRG INTEREST IN HAVING AN ALLIED STATEMENT CONFIRMING THE CONTINUING VALIDITY OF THE FOUR- POWER " AGREEMENT" ON SIXTEEN SCHEDULED TRAINS VIA MARIENBORN (PARA 5, REFTEL A), WE DO NOT BELIEVE THERE IS ONE SINGLE DOCUMENT THAT CAN BE CITED TO THIS EFFECT. AS BQD-101 OF DECEMBER 14, 1962, NOTED (IN PARA 3): " IN PRACTICE, CONL/ P(45)27 (WHICH WAS ONLY PROVISIONAL IN NATURE-- AND COVERED ONLY FREIGHT TRAINS) WAS MODIFIED SEVERAL TIMES, WITH THE NUMBER OF
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TRAINS CLAIMED VARYING ACCORDING TO NEED." MANY OF THESE MODIFICATIONS OVER THE PAST QUARTER CENTURY HAVE BEEN EFFECTED ONLY THROUGH VERBAL UNDERSTANDINGS OR NON-QUADRIpartite MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING (INVOLVING, FOR EXAMPLE, THE BRITISH TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITIES AT HELMSTEDT WITH THE EAST GERMAN REICHSBAHN AUTHORITIES AND WEST GERMAN BUNDESBahn AUTHORITIES). THE MOST SIGNIFICANT EAST- WEST UNDERSTANDINGS WHICH GOVERN THE CURRENT SITUATION AT HELMSTEDT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN REACHED DURING SEVERAL DIFFERENT MEETINGS IN MAY, 1949, FOLLOWING THE TERMINATION OF THE BERLIN BLOCKADE. THE BRITISH FILES ON THIS SUBJECT WOULD PRESUMABLY BE THE MOST COMPLETE AND RELIABLE. FOR EXAMPLE, BQD-101 REFERS

TO MAY 18-21, 1949, DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN WESTERN TRANSPORTATION REPRESENTATIVES AND GENERAL KVASHIN, SOVIET MILITARY GOVERNMENT, DURING WHICH:

A. SIR ROBERT INGLIS, BRITISH REPRESENTATIVE, CALLED FOR A RETURN TO THE MARCH 1, 1948, PATTERN OF SOME 20 TRAINS PER DAY (SIX ALLIED PASSENGER TRAINS, THIRTEEN FREIGHT TRAINS, AND AN EXTRA GERMAN PASSENGER TRAIN) VIA HELMSTEDT-- AND ELEVEN DAILY FREIGHT TRAINS THROUGH OEBISFELDE- STENDEL (IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT THE LATTER ROUTE WAS ALSO MENTIONED IN THESE DISCUSSIONS);

B. GENERAL KVASHIN STATED THE SOVIET VIEW THAT THE FRENCH TRAIN WAS NOT A MILITARY TRAIN, BUT AN INTERNATIONAL TRAIN, BECAUSE IT RAN TO PARIS;

C. ON MAY 21, 1949, GENERAL KVASHIN ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE ALLIED WERE " LEGALLY ENTITLED" TO NINETEEN TRAINS (FIVE MILITARY PASSENGER TRAINS, ONE INTERZONAL TRAIN, AND THIRTEEN " OTHERS").

2. IT REMAINS TRUE THAT THE CURRENT SIXTEEN TRAIN PATHS THROUGH MARIENBORN/ HELMSTEDT ARE THE ONLY ONES GUARANTEED BY FOUR- POWER AGREEMENTS AND UNDERSTANDINGS; BUT A CASE COULD BE MADE THAT THE FULL QUOTA ORGINALLY GUARANTEED IS NO LONGER IN USE.

3. IF, IN SPITE OF THE FOREGOING CONSIDERATIONS, THE
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BONN GROUP SHOULD STILL ELECT TO PREPARE A STATEMENT FOR

THE FRG' S USE, THE DEPARTMENT WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION.
THE DEPARTMENT WOULD WISH TO CONSIDER SUCH A STATEMENT
IN DRAFT FORM. ROGERS

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To: BERLIN
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